From the life of an IG Farben monopolist

FROM HANS

Leisler Kiep was born on January 10, 1884: in Glasgow (Scotland). His
His father, Johannes Nicolaus Kiep, a lumberjack from Hamburg, had lived in Glasgow since 1867 and was German consul there from 1897 to 1908. His mother Charlotte's brother, Franz von Rottenburg, was head of the Reich Chancellery under Bis marck from 1881 to 1891. After attending Hillhead High School in Glasgow from 1889 to 1898, Leisler Kiep received tutoring from 1898 to 1899 and then went to the Royal Monastery School in Ilfeld (Harz), which he left in 1901 after passing his A-levels.

On April 10, 1901, Leisler Kiep joined the navy as a sea cadet, attended the naval school until 1903, became a lieutenant at sea in 1904 and graduated from the naval academy in Kiel from 1910 to 1912.

Until then, the accounts of Leisler Kiep's life correspond to those in biographical handbooks whose information was authorized by him.1

We read about his participation in the First World War in the "Reichshandbuch der Deutschen Gesellschaft":

"During the war, K. took part in the Battle of the Dogger Bank and the Battle of the Skagerrak, as well as in the conquest of the Baltic Islands and the operation to liberate Finland."

If the above sentences already suggest that Leisler Kiep was a front-line officer, this impression is reinforced by the brief formulation in "Who is Who?" from 1958:

"War operations including the Battle of the Skagerrak, conquest of the Halt. Islands and liberation of Finland."

We read in a newspaper report: "During the Skagerrak battle he was I O of Admiral Scheer, in 1917 staff officer on the Oesel enterprise." 2

1 German Business Guide. Edited by *Wenzel, Georg,* Hamburg-Berlin Leipzig 1929.
Reichshandbuch der Deutschen Gesellschaft, Vol. I, Berlin 1930
Who is Who? Berlin 1958.

2 "Frankfurter Allgemeine" No. 299 from December 24, 1953.

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This information is confirmed to some extent in the service record of the retired corvette captain Leisler K.iep. D. Leisler K.iep, which states that during the war he "consistently held positions of trust and admiral staff5 Fro There is nothing in the reference$_{eg}$ about the activity rnn
Leisler Kiep during the war is only
Has conducted difficult political negotiations with Sweden, Russia and Finland.
country during the Finnish venture in the spring of 1918 and brought it to a successful conclusion... ""
Much more important, however, is the sentence in this testimony that says about Kiep:
"Maintains personal relationships on all sides." 5
Leisler Kiep married the granddaughter of Karl Friedrich Wilhelm Meister, Eugenie vorn Rath, the eldest daughter of \Valther vorn Rath, who had been Chairman of the Supervisory Board of Farbwerke, formerly Meister Lucius & Brüning, in Höchst am Main for many years, in 1910, 'after longstanding connections to the Meister family'6. Walther vorn Rath later became the first Deputy Chairman of the Supervisory Board of IG Farbenindustrie AG. It remains to be seen whether father-in-law vorn Rath, prompted by these personal relationships, devoted himself to special problems of chemical armaments for the navy or whether this work was already on the not-so-small plan of the Höchst works for war production. We read in the commemorative publication of this later IG Farben plant: "Insofar as the plants did not
direct war purposes, they were indirectly involved in supplying the fighting army. "7 In the preceding sentences, the production of armaments is particularly emphasized:
"The *artificial fog* invented in the paint works shortly before the war became an important protection for the fighting troops. The "Höchster Nebel" not only played an important role in the Battle of the Skagerrak and in other sea battles of the World War, but also brought about a permanent change in tactics at sea and, in part, on land." 8
Nor is it possible to determine the extent to which Leisler Kiep's personal relationships played a role in his becoming "representative of the navy at the negotiations of the International Armistice Commission in Spa and the

3 German Central Archive Potsdam, fonds 0701, file 578 (hereafter: DZA), BI. 15.
4 Ibid.
s Ibid.
6 "Der Volkswirt" No. 3 of January 16,
7 75 years of Höchst factory history, 1863-1938.
75th anniversary of the founding of Farbwerke vorm. Master Lucius & Brüning, Munich 1938, p. 119.
8 Ibid.
9 Reichshandbuch der Deutschen Gesellschaft, Vol. I, Berlin 1930.

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who was an "expert at the armistice negotiations in Trier and Brussels, the peace negotiations in Versailles and the reparations negotiations in Brussels. "Cuno had been a member of the board of directors of the Hamburg-America Line since 1917 and was appointed to the board of directors of the Hamburg-America Line after his death.

\-on Albert Ballin was elected Chairman of the Board of Directors of this company on December 20, 1918.

Leisler Kiep also had other relationships with Hapag (Hamburg Amerikanische Packetfahrt-AG, stock exchange name: Hamburg-Amerika-Linie).

His mother came from the Hamburg merchant family Witt, who held a supervisory board position at Hapag for ten years.

Kiep left the navy in September 1919 and subsequently attended Frankfurt University; in 1920 he obtained a doctorate in political science and worked as an attaché at the Foreign Office from spring to autumn 1920. In the following three years, he was managing director of the Hamburg Shipowners' Association and the Central Association of German Shipowners. A West German newspaper wrote about his further activities until 1933:

From here (Verein Hamburger Reeder - H. R.), he was recruited to Hamburg Amerika-Linie in 1923 by the then General Director of Hamburg-Amerika-Linie, Cuno, and appointed to its Board in 1924. He played a key role in the reconstruction of German shipping, particularly the Hamburg-America Line, after the First World War. In 1927, together with Dr. Cuno, he brought about the founding of the first Rotary Club in Germany. In 192S he and Dr. Cuno succeeded in signing the first Hapag-Lloyd Union contract. In 1933, the political upheavals put an end to his work at Hapag." [11]

The last sentence of this quotation contains one of those typical lies with which the Western press repeatedly attempts to adapt the image of monopolists and militarists to the political requirements of the time, making itself guilty of the most shameless falsifications of history. At the root of the evil, however, are the ruling imperialist circles, in whose interest and at whose instigation lies are told and whose members hope to benefit from all these falsifications. For the most part, they themselves have made false statements about their lives - just think of the countless false statements in denazification proceedings that have already become known. Leisler Kiep had already spread lies about his resignation from the boards of Hapag and NDL in 1934, as he admitted in a letter to the head of the Reich Chancellery on October 20, 1934:

..... I have been a follower of the Führer for many years and have

N.S.D.A.P. in Hamburg in every way possible. . . I have been a party member since I.I. 1933.

In order to eliminate the strange effect of my dismissal from H. A.p_ (Hapag

10 *Ibid.*

11 *"Frankfurter Allgemeine", a. a. 0.*

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to many friends as a promotion to State Councillor and member of the Supervisory Board." [12]

It is true that Leisler Kiep had to resign from the board of Hapag and North German Lloyd in 1933. It is also true that it was a resignation, even if, since he was a member of the ruling circles of German imperialism, it took a different form than that of any other employee due to the fact that he had been appointed to the supervisory board of both companies and to the State Council.However, to present this as a promotion was an outright lie, which did not even do Kiep any good.13 On October 25, 1934, just five days after the letter quoted above, he informed Lammers that he (K.iep) must assume that his "resignation from the Supervisory Board will be cate gorically demanded." [13] Another three days later, on October 28, 1934, he informed Lammers:

"I have responded to the government's request, which Mr. Helfferich has since sent to me, to resign my position as a member of the Supervisory Board without delay, under threat of dismissal by an extraordinary General Meeting, as set out in the enclosure." 14

The enclosed copy of a letter to the Chairman of the Supervisory Board of Hapag, Helfferich, states, among other things:

"In confirmation of your letter of March 25, as a National Socialist, I can only reply that the government's wish is my command, which I obey by resigning my post as a member of the Supervisory Board of Hapag and NDL ... "15

In all the letters quoted there is no mention of the fact that Kiep, as the "Frank furter Allgemeine" wrote, had to leave Hapag and North German Lloyd because of the "political upheavals". Kiep himself expressly wrote that "as a National Socialist" he would follow the "wishes of the government".

But why was Leisler Kiep replaced as a member of the board of directors of both companies in 1933 and also made to resign from their supervisory boards in 1934?

Leisler Kiep and other board members of both companies were found to have unjustly enriched themselves with Group funds in the years 1932 to 1933, also from the point of view of monopoly capital. Both stock corporations had pension funds that were primarily fed from the Group's profits; a much smaller part of these funds came from bonuses that the members of the Management Board received in their capacity as members of the supervisory boards of other companies and which they were obliged to transfer. In 1932, both companies were supported by a bank loan of RM 30.5 million guaranteed by the Reich because they were over-indebted and insolvent.

12 *DZA, Bl. 13.* 13 *DZA, Bl. 28.* 14 *DZA, Bl. 30.* 15 *DZA, Bl. 31.*

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Although a pension case had not occurred and, except in the case of Cuno Hinter

As there was no need to provide for those who remained, the members of the Executive Board dissolved the pension fund and divided the money among themselves.

"The motive was apparently the concern that either the banking consortium or the Reich government would draw on the reserve account, "l6 according to a record of the Reich Ministry of Transport on the distribution of the pension fund.

In addition, some of the board members, including Leisler Kiep, had "negligently failed to pay tax on the amounts paid into the pension fund for their account", as Leisler Kiep's lawyer, von der Goltz, stated in a statement of facts for Lammers. 17

During the proceedings, Kiep repeatedly tried to offset his "merits as a National Socialist" against his criminal actions with the authorities involved. For example, we read in a memo dated January 9, 1936 from Ministerialrat von Stutterheim, who had received Leisler Kiep at the request of the State Finance Office Director Witting on the occasion on behalf of Lammers:

"Since I had to gain the impression from various remarks made by Mr. Witting in the course of his remarks that the State Finance Office, according to the statements of Count Goltz and Mr. Leisler Kiep, was of the opinion that not only the State Secretary and Head of the Reich Chancellery, but also the Führer and Reich Chancellor himself urgently desired a favorable settlement of the case for Mr. Leisler Kiep, I explained on this point that, in view of Mr. Leisler Kiep's position and his merits, the State Secretary would certainly welcome it if Mr. Leisler Kiep were found to be innocent, but that he would certainly not advocate that Mr. Leisler Kiep be cleared under all circumstances, i.e., even if he could not be cleared under the circumstances.

deserve. "1e

So that means nothing other than that Kiep, under certain circumstances

Conversa with State Secretary Koenigs about the unlawful distribution of of the pension fund:

"No *criminal* proceedings. Lawyers covered everything up. But a bad thing from a moral point of view. "19

On November 22, 1935, the Hamburg State Tax Office issued the following ways for Leisler Kiep, as for the other parties involved, tax penalties due for negligent endangerment of taxes. The sentence imposed on Kiep

The sentence was erased from the criminal record by decree of the Reich Minister of Justice on February 14, 1938.20

16 DZA, Bl. 20. 17 DZA, Bl. 37. 1e DZA, Bl. 48f.
19 DZA, note before Bl. 18.
20 DZA, Bl. 66.

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It is therefore clearly proven that it was Leisler Kiep's criminal acts and not the "political upheavals" that put an end to his work in the shipping companies.

It could not have been otherwise, because Leisler Kiep was already one of the most eager supporters of the fascist party in the circles of monopoly capital long before 1933.

He himself bore witness to this when he wrote in his birthday wish to Hitler in 1939:

"Remembering the time from 1930 to 1933, when I was able to work in Hamburg for the financial support of the party and its propaganda in the circle of the large shipping company, as well as the conversation that you gave me on November 3, 1932 in the "Kaiserhof" granted, ... "[21]

In a letter dated February 18, 1936 to Count von der Goltz, the original of which[22] was sent to Lammers, Leisler Kiep explained that in the fall of 1932 he had signed a copy of the petition to Hindenburg demanding that Hitler be made Reich Chancellor.[23] It is irrelevant in this context that this copy signed by Kiep did not reach the intended recipient – especially since Albert Schreiner, in his documentation of the attempts by West German historians to whitewash German monopoly capital, has provided clear evidence that

The important thing here is to obtain additional confirmation from someone involved that the other submissions had been handed in. Kiep's constant pledges of loyalty to the fascist party, his indignation at the fact that his copy of the petition had not been handed in, and his relations with important foreign personalities might have led Kiep to expect a lenient punishment for his tax offense and its speedy expungement, but they did not protect him from the fact that he had lost a great deal of moral credit in his circles.This may also be the reason why Leisler Kiep's name is not mentioned at all in Norddeutscher Lloyd's Festschrift, published in 1957, even though Kiep was a member of the board of this company for several years.

Since obviously after the tax proceedings - which were not published, but not in the ruling circles in which Kiep moved.

[21] **DZA, Bl. 70.**

n DZA, Bl. 52f.

[23] **Cf.** *Schreiner, Albert,* **Die Eingabe deutscher Finanzmagnaten, Monopolisten und Junker an Hindenburg für die Berufung Hitlers zum Reichskanzler (November 1932), in: "Zeitschrift für Geschichtswissenschaft", Vol. IV, 1956,**

[24] **H. 2, p. 366:ff.**

Bessel, Georg, **Norddeutscher Lloyd 1857-1957. History of a Bremen shipping**

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Since the war remained unknown - there was no possibility for him to obtain another managerial position, Kiep went to Turkey and became an advisor on shipping issues to the government there. He returned to Germany at the outbreak of the war, was Director General of Hamburgische Landesbank from 1940 to 1943 and then an honorary expert for the War Damage Office in Frankfurt am Main until the end of the war. After the death of his father-in-law, Walther vom Rath, at the beginning of 1940, Leisler Kiep apparently inherited not only the
"Haus Meister" in Kronberg (Taunus), the ancestral home of the Meister family, where he has lived since 1943, but also a significant block of shares in IG Farben industrie AG (Walther vom Rath was registered at the 1939 Annual General Meeting of IG Farbenindustrie AG with a personal holding of IG shares with a nominal value of RM 1,031000, which does not mean that he did not own even more IG shares, which he may have had represented by others). 25.

Since the reestablishment of Farbwerke Hoechst AG in 1953, Leisler Kiep has been Deputy Chairman of its Supervisory Board and Chairman of the Technical and Scientific Committee of the Supervisory Board. This position shows that he must have owned a fairly large block of shares in IG Farbenindustrie AG. This allowed him to
"IG Farbenentflechtung" to become one of the major shareholders of Farbwerke Hoechst, but what we read in a note in the major German newspaper "Der Volkswirt" is of interest:

"After the collapse, Dr. Kiep was Chief Adviser to the IG Farben Control Office (US) for six months in 1948, but then left to devote himself to the issues of IG unbundling, in particular the restoration of Farb werke Hoechst. "26

This proves once again what assistance American monopoly capital gave to German imperialism for the reorganization of its economic base, including through the American occupation authorities, in a manner that contradicted the provisions of the Potsdam Agreement.

On his 75th birthday, January 10, 1959, Leisler Kiep, one of the main culprits in the establishment of fascism in Germany, received one of the highest decorations of the West German state, the Grand Federal Cross of Merit with Star.27

In the following reproduction of individual documents, all notes not made by the letter writers themselves have been omitted, as they are contained in the reply letters. Similarly, the emphasis in the original has also been omitted.

25 *Attendance list of the Annual General Meeting of IG Farbe nindustrie AG of 1939, photocopy of the original in the German Economic Institute, Berlin, file no. 4376.*

26 *"Der Volkswirt" No. 3 of January 16, 1954.*

27 *"Frankfurter Rundschau" of January 12, 1959, issue A.*

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Hamburg 13
Harvestehuder Weg 16
25. IV. 34.

Personal !

Dear Mr. Lammers !

I have not yet thanked you for your very kind lines of December 31, 1933, because I always thought that I might see you again occasionally. A few weeks ago I tried in vain to arrange an appointment with you in Berlin to discuss the possibility of a meeting between the Führer and the Prince of Wales if he had come here for my daughter's wedding on December 12. I learned from London, however, that the present political situation precluded a visit here, even under the most innocuous pretext, so that the reason for calling on you fell through. Now another communication I have received has prompted me to ask you for information. After a lecture that State Secretary Pfundtner gave here last year, an agreement was reached between him, R. Governor Kaufmann and Bürg. Mstr. Krogmann and myself discussed the desirability of a visit by the Führer by sea. I have now heard from Theodor Amsinck of Hamburg Süd that the Führer's visit here is planned for Saturday, May 12th, with a trip on the Cap Arcona, and if this is true, I would of course attach great importance to taking part in the trip and would have to try to bring forward my daughter's wedding by one day, which would not be easy, but it would be possible.My request to you is therefore to have the great kindness to let me know personally whether I should make the postponement, and I would of course conceal the reason. Thank you very much in advance. With the request for best recommendations to the guide, best regards and

Heil Hitler 1
Your most devoted Leisler Kiep

DZA, Bl. 3, handwritten original.

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The State Secretary
in the Reich
Chancellery StS.

Berlin W 8, April 26, 1934

I.) To
Mr. Director Leister Kie p
Hamburg 13
Harvestehuder Weg 1 6.

Confidential

Dear Mr. Kiep !

After receiving your kind letter of the 25th of this month, I soon asked the Führer whether he was considering the aforementioned voyage on the Cap Arcona. He answered this question in the negative, but added that it was possible that such an invitation had been sent to him or was available in writing.
With warm greetings and Hitler-Heil

Your very devoted L

2) Z. d. A.

DZA, p. 4, Concept signed off by Lamrners, sent on April 26, 1934

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House Meister
Cronberg in the

15. 7. 34.

Dear Mr. Larnmers !

It has been a long time since I wrote to you, and today I feel compelled to ask you to tell our Führer and Chancellor how happy and delighted I am, and with me my wife and my Sch,\iegereltern vom Rath here, about the deeply moving and uplifting speech. It is as if a heavy nightmare has been lifted! Certainly, many difficult things lie ahead, but after such words of the highest human and statesmanlike greatness, there can no longer be a German worthy of the name who does not stand behind the Führer and invoke God's blessing on his head! Thank you very much if you convey our faithful blessings to the Führer !
If you could spare me a moment on Tuesday the 24th, I would be very grateful. Following repeated invitations from a long-time friend of mine, the leading man in shipping, Lord Essendon, I am going to visit him for a week on the 26th and will also see the Prince of Wales in London. Before my trip, I will speak to the King's Secretary of State and the Foreign Minister or Bülow and would like to see you, and the German Embassy in Berlin will be making inquiries by telephone in the course of the coming week.
With best regards and

Heil Hitler ! Your most devoted Leisler
Kiep

Mr. v.Steinmeister, who was here yesterday, joins in the thanks and asked for greetings.

DZA, BI. 5, handwritten original.

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The State Secretary
in the Reich
Chancellery St. S.
No. 2014/34.

Berlin, July 19, 1934.

I.) To
Mr. Leisler Kiep
Cronb erg im Taunus,

Dear Mr. Leisler Kiep !

The blessings you extended to him on the occasion of the Führer's last speech I have gladly conveyed to the Reich Chancellor the wishes you requested in your letter of the 15th of this month. The Reich Chancellor was sincerely pleased about these wishes and the expression of your loyal sentiments and would like to convey his sincere thanks to you and your relatives as well as to Mr. von Steinmeister.
Unfortunately, it is impossible for me to meet you when you passed through Berlin on 24.
d. Mts. as I am already leaving for Berchtesgaden this week together with the guide to stay there for several weeks.
With warmest regards and Heil Hitler, I am

Yours sincerely (N.
d. H. St. S.)
L

2. z. d. A.

DZA, sheet 6, signed off from Lammers, sent on July 20, 1934.

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Hamburg 13
Harvestehuder \\'eg 16
23. 8. 34.

Dear Mr. Lammers !

I still have to thank you for your kind telegram of the 5th of this month, in which you conveyed the thanks of the Reich Chancellor. I would be very grateful if you would convey my enthusiastic congratulations to the Führer and Reich Chancellor and to my entire family on the tremendous commitment of our people to his leadership on August 9th ! We all implore God's blessing for him and his tremendous work for our Fatherland!

Three weeks ago I was in England visiting my friend Lord Essendon, the most important shipping personality in the world, and met many interesting people at his delightful country estate. On the whole, despite all the charming personal kindness, the impression was not a pleasant one, as it was strongly tinged with mistrust. I have the impression, however, that a mood of discontent against the poisoning of the press is gradually spreading and I hope that I personally, here and there, was able to have a successful effect, even with members of the Cabinet with whom I met, especially as my friends have known me for many years as a supporter of the Führer, while with some others they understandably do not fully comprehend the change of mood since a year ago. I only received a very friendly telegram from the Prince of Wales as he was about to leave for Biarritz. Today I received a letter from an old friend, Sir Walter Lawrence, who is personally close to the King, in which he speaks favorably of the development of German-English relations. I am sure that the result of the nineteenth will be of great effect.

If your time permits, I would of course be very happy to see you again. If you give me an appointment, I can scurry over to Berlin at any time.

Unfortunately, I couldn't be in Hamburg for the Führer's visit because I was in Denmark with a sailing yacht, which I was the only one with a skipper's license who couldn't leave. On the 19th, however, my entire crew was at the ballot box with 100% turnout and 100% yes!

With the expression of my most sincere thanks for the kind transmission of our wishes for happiness and blessings to the Führer and Reich Chancellor and my best personal greetings, as well as

Heil Hitler ! Always your most devoted Leisler Kiep

DZA , Bl. 9 and 10, handwritten original.

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The State Secretary
of the Reich
Chancellery StS. No.
2334/34.

Berchtesgaden, September 6, 1934.

I An
State Councillor Dr. Leisler
Kiep Hamburg 13

Dear Mr. State Councillor Kiep !

I would like to thank you most sincerely for your kind letter of August 23, in which you reported on your recent impressions in England. They were of particular interest to me. I will take the opportunity in the next few days to inform the Chancellor of your observations and experiences in England.
In accordance with your wishes, I would very much like to discuss some matters with you when you are in Berlin, but I cannot be available for such a meeting at the moment as I am in Berchtesgaden for business reasons. I will probably not be back in Berlin until the end of September, some time after this year's party congress in Nuremberg, and I would ask you to let me know in good time if you will be in Berlin.
With warmest regards and Hitler Heil I am

Yours

DZA, Bl. 11, concept, handwritten note: .,geschr. 6. 9. Bg. (Miss Büge, secretary of Lammers - H. R.), gel. u. abges. 7. 9. Bg."

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Hamburg 13
Harvestehuderweg 16

Personal ! **20. 10. 34.**

Dear Mr. Lammers !

I would like to thank you once again for kindly allowing me to speak to you yesterday and would like to take the liberty of pointing out one thing that slipped my mind yesterday. I have been a supporter of the Führer for many years and have
Letter from a Hapag employee, Thoma, to the Minist. Rat. Metzner in the R.M.d. J. enclosed in copy). I have been a party member since **I.** l. 1933. In order to explain the strange **effect of** just my being kicked out of the **H. A.** P. after the assumption of power, I presented the whole thing to my many friends as a promotion to State Councillor and member of the Supervisory Board. If I now, without waiting for the result of the investigation, comply with the request of the Reich Minister of Transport, not only will a new injustice be added to the great injustice that was done to me a year ago, but my international relations will be lost for good and, in my opinion, in a form that is undesirable for general reasons. I repeat that if the board of H.A.P.A.G. should have given wrong legal advice or the financial director of Hapag should have acted differently towards the Reich Ministry of Transport and if more taxes are to be paid – I have not yet been assessed – then what is right should be done and a corresponding tax levied; but my honor should not be compromised and nothing should be done that could damage the reputation of German shipping in the world. Only in defense – and for this reason, I ask you to understand – I enclose a copy of my leaving service certificate from the Navy and a letter from the then Chairman of Cunard Sir Thomas Royden to Dr. Cuno, which dates back to 1929, after I had chaired the conference for the first time. For the rest, I will proceed in accordance with your advice and have also asked for a meeting with the Reich Governor, but unfortunately he is in bed. If I could get an answer from you, I would be very grateful and would appreciate it if you could address Dr. Schacht, who knows me well, on the matter.

Thanks again**,** best regards and Heil Hitler !

Your most devoted Leisler Kiep

DZA, BI. 13, typewritten original, signed by Leisler Kiep.

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March 8, 33.

Dear party comrade Dr. Metzner !

As I informed you this morning, our Dr. Kiep, member of the board of Hamburg Amerika Linie, will be in Berlin next Friday. Mr. Lohse, Gauleiter of Schleswig Holstein, has agreed with Dr. Kiep to register with Minister Frick and Ministerial Director Funk. I would be extremely grateful if you would also inform the Minister. Thank you very much for your kind efforts.
For your information, I would now like to say a word that seems appropriate, especially at the present time: Dr. Kiep has stood by us and our movement for years and stood up for our movement at every opportunity when we were still small and insignificant. There is really no need to say that Dr. Kiep always and at all times supported us by all means. I therefore consider it appropriate that we too should now do everything we can to smooth the way for Dr. Kiep and support him to the best of our ability. - You are undoubtedly aware that Dr. K. has excellent connections abroad (Prince of Wales) and I believe that these private connections can also be put to good use for us. From the point of view of German shipping, I am keen to maintain contact with our government agencies. I am grateful for your support.
Always at your disposal, with kind regards and Heil Hitler

always yours
(signed
Thoma)

DZA, BI. 14, typewritten copy, handwritten addition .,(gez. Thoma)",
Enclosure to the letter from Kiep (20. 10. 34).

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Transcrip

The head of the Admiralty
Naval Peace Commission
B. No. Go 20 Fr. 4

Certificate of employment

Mr. Corvette Captain (ret.) Louis Leisler Kiep at his Retirement from naval service.

Born on January 10, 1884, joined the navy on April 10, 1901 as a sea cadet. In possession of the school leaving certificate.
Fresh, lively person of exceptional talent. Sharp and clear thinker, who thinks his thoughts through to the final conclusion. Extraordinary working power and desire to work. Quick and reliable worker. Outstanding knowledge also in areas outside his previous profession, including politics. Maintains personal relationships on all sides. Excellently conducted difficult political negotiations with Sweden, Russia and Finland during the Finland operation in the spring of 1918 and brought them to a successful conclusion, which is why his admiral submitted him for the Pour le Merite in unreserved recognition. The application was not approved despite the approval of the Chief of the Fleet. He is excellent at dealing with people and creating a position for himself.
During the war, in which he consistently held positions of trust and admiral staff positions, he proved himself to be an intrepid, dutiful officer, which all his superiors recognized in writing.
Corvette Captain Kiep is retiring from naval service due to the downsizing of the navy as a result of the peace treaty. Wherever his path takes him, my best recommendations accompany him. My service has brought me together with him in many commands.

Berlin, September 1, 1919

signed. Heinrich
Captain at sea and commodore.

DZA, p. 15, typewritten copy, enclosure to Kiep's letter (20. 10. 34) .

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The State Secretary and Head
of the Reich Chancellery
StS. No. 3148/34 (StS. No. 3126, 3147/34).

Berlin W 8, October 25, 1934.

1) To
State Councillor Dr. Leisler Kiep
Hamburg 13
Harvestehuder Weg 16.

Dear Mr. Kiep !

I have received your letter of the 20th of this month and your telegram of the 22nd of this month, and I have contacted Mr. Koenigs, State Secretary in the Reich Ministry of Transport, and received from him a record of the distribution of the pension funds at Hapag and Lloyd. On the basis of this record, I was obliged to inform the Führer and Reich Chancellor of the matter, at the same time drawing his attention to your personal efforts in the interests of German-English understanding.
The Führer and Reich Chancellor has made the following decision and has instructed me to inform you of it:

1. He did not intend to intervene in the matter of pension fund distributions. In his opinion, the matter should be investigated and settled by the competent authorities.
2. As long as the matter has not been settled, he asks you to exercise the greatest possible restraint in the unofficial discussion of foreign policy issues in the relationship between the German Reich and England.

I am extremely sorry to have to pass this on to you, and I am most sincerely yours and yours truly.

Heil Hitler Your very devoted L.

2.) Z.d.A.

DZA, Bl. 26 and 27, concept, signed off by Lammers, sent on October 25, 1934.

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Dr. Leisler Kiep

State Councillor and retired Corvette

Haus Meister
Kronberg i. Taunus
Tel. 3 14

18. 2. 36.

Dr. iur. Grafen von der Goltz
Berlin W 8
Unter den Linden 3a.

In accordance with your wishes, I am providing below an account of the matter with the submission to Reich President von Hindenburg.
If it should be necessary, I could have the individual dates determined exactly according to the visit book, which was in my anteroom at Hapag and must still be there with my private files.
In the fall of 1932, C V Krogmann, the current governing mayor of Hamburg, visited me just as I was about to make a similar suggestion to him and asked me whether I would like to take part in a petition to Hindenburg asking him to appoint Hitler as chancellor. I immediately said yes and signed the petition, which Krogmann took with him. He left me another copy with the request to get Cuno's signature! I called Cuno, who was in the West, in the evening. He was annoyed and said that as the only two of us on the board who were in favor of the NS DA P, we should deal with such matters together as before, that my signature, just like his, was only a personal one and committed Hapag. He told me to leave the matter until he was back in two days. I objected that anything was further from my mind than letting this matter, in which we were both alone together, come to a dispute; on the other hand, I had already given my signature and I was justified in assuming, from all our differences, that he would do the same. We finally agreed that I would ask Krogmann to withhold the paper with my signature until Cuno had the opportunity to get his bearings on the whole matter. I informed Krogmann accordingly. On his return, I discussed the matter with Cuno and established that we were on the same page. He went to Berlin, where he was in contact not only with those involved in the petition, but also with all the key figures in the state and party. When I asked him after his return what had been done with my petition, he replied that the petitions had not been handed over at all, as the negotiations had come to nothing.
The next I heard about the matter was in the early summer of '33: Cuno was dead, Böger had been transferred to the Supervisory Board and Mr. Helfferich had appeared at Hapag, who was to become Chairman of the Supervisory Board. Count Rödem told me

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He told me that I had a bad reputation with the party and said that Helfferich had told him that at the time I had refused to sign a letter to Hindenburg saying that Hitler would become Reich Chancellor. I explained the true facts to Count Rödem! Some time later, Mr. Helfferich called me in for the only conversation we had in the entire months. He spoke only of incidental matters, mentioned that my brother in New York (who is now in East Asia) was very badly registered with the Party, and then I raised the question of the petition and his remarks to Count Rödem at the time.Helfferich said that in the end he had not contacted Cuno at all in Berlin, as he had continued to make difficulties, but that the petitions had been handed in without mine. I then explained to Mr. Helfferich that I found this procedure highly incorrect. I had signed the petition and then, for reasons that Mr. Krogmann knew, linked my signature to Cuno's until the latter had had the opportunity to inform himself. I had to reproach Mr. Helfferich for not asking me what should happen to my petition after he, Helfferich, had decided, without my knowledge, not to ask Cuno at all. If I had known about this matter, I would have asked him to hand in my submission, since the content, as Krogmann knew, was absolutely in line with my opinion. Mr. Helfferich did not respond to my accusation.

When I went to see Mr. Keppler and Mr. Kranefuss at Krogmann's instigation, I immediately noticed a bad attitude towards me. Only the worst was said about Cuno, for example, that Cuno had not only favored but also financially supported the publication of an election pamphlet "Haltet das Tor offen!" (Keep the gate open!), which was undoubtedly supported by the Hamburg government at the time and in which Hitler was called the forerunner of Bolshevism. I immediately replied that, in my opinion, this must be a slander, because I had often spoken with Cuno about this particular pamphlet and we both strongly disagreed.

Heil Hitler !
Leisler Kiep

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Dr. Leisler Kiep
State Councillor and retired

Denizbank Istanbul
Galata

By courier ! 20. 3. 39.

Dear and esteemed Mr. Reichsminister!

The magnitude of the events that took place under the all-conquering leadership of Adolf
Hitler's new enormous successes added to those he had just achieved, almost makes one forget the personal questions completely. However, the daily events remind us, especially here in this exposed position, that everyone must be constantly on the ball and always stand up for the German cause so that the Führer can keep up the pace. And so I would also like to make my preparations in good time so that the Führer has my congratulations on his 50th birthday in his hands within a month. I would ask you to allow me to make use of your kind mediation and to kindly forward the letter and book to the Führer. The contents of the book as a monument to the comradeship of the Three Little Cruisers will perhaps interest the Führer, as it is all "front-line life". Please accept my most sincere thanks in advance for your kind fulfillment of my request!
I last wrote to you on February 14 and have only to add to my information at that time that the negotiations on canceling the construction of three 5200-tonners in Rostock are close to being concluded. The Germans will pay a fine of almost three million Reichsmarks, and the shipbuilding orders will go abroad, probably to England. You can imagine how bitterly angry I am about this! I had appealed to all the relevant authorities (Funk, Raeder, Weizsäcker) but only received the reply that unfortunately there was no other way, as everything was needed for the rearmament! The building I had erected here is unfortunately becoming more and more fragile. All the more reason to try to find other ways to increase Germany's influence if the supply of ships is not feasible. Thinking and acting in this way is certainly in the spirit of the Führer, to whom I would like to convey my loyalty, remembering the period from 1930 to 1933, when I was almost the only person in the circle of the major German shipping companies who was able to do much for the party.
With all good personal wishes for you as well as best regards and

Heil Hitler 1
always your Leisler
Kiep

To the
Reich Minister and Head of the Reich
Chancellery Dr. Lammers

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Dr. Leisler Kiep
State Councillor and retired

Denizbank
Istanbul
GALATA

On April 20, 1939.

My guide !

On your fiftieth birthday, please receive the most heartfelt good wishes from my wife, my children, my housemates and myself ! May the blessing of the Almighty accompany you on all your journeys and keep you fresh and energetic for a long, long time for the blessing and success of the Greater German Fatherland that you have created!
Remembering the time from 1930 to 1933, when I was able to work in Hamburg for the financial support of the party and its propaganda in the circle of the large shipping company, as well as the conversation that you gave me on November 3, 1932 in the
"Kaiserhof", I would ask you to accept the enclosed book "Drei Kleine Kreuzer" as a small gift. It is a monument to the wartime comradeship which today, within the framework of the N.S. German Naval Association, holds together just as steadfastly as it did from 1914 to 1918.
Incidentally, my gift to you on your birthday is the assurance that for me here at an outpost, just as in war, the saying applies: " Being ready is everything!"
In admiration, gratitude and loyalty

Your most devoted Leisler Kiep

To the
Führer and Reich Chancellor
Berlin

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Dr. Leisler Kiep
State Councillor and retired

Denizbank
Istanbul
Galata
Telgr. : Denizbank Istanbul

10. 4. 39.

Dear Mr. Reichsminister !

Thank you very much for your kind words of March 30th !
It is very kind of you to send the Führer my congratulations and my modest little birthday present.
Your kind message that the Führer will thank me for my congratulations and the modest birthday present gives me the courage to ask for a picture of the Führer with his signature !
I did not ask the Führer for it during the period of struggle from about 1930 onwards, and later the struggle for "Fundus" came for me. A year ago, I was able to inform you that I had successfully completed the struggle, and so a picture of the Führer would be a particularly nice conclusion to this period. I think that my following of almost ten years might give me some justification to make such a request!
In any case, I would be most grateful if you would make the request, if you think it appropriate!
With best regards and

Heil Hitler
always your most devoted Leisler

Mr. Reichsminister
and Head of the Reich
Chancellery Dr. Lammers
Berlin

l.) The Führer has signed the attached picture.
2) Mr. pers. Referenten erg.

Berlin, June 7, 1939.

DZA, Bl. 72, typewritten original, signed by Leisler Kiep.
The notes under the address were typed on the back of the original by the Lammers office and signed off by them.

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The Reich Minister and Chief of the Reich Chancellery RM. No. *Berlin, June 10, 1 939*

1) To
Dr. Leisler Kiep
State Councillor and retired
Corvette Captain Denizbank
Istanbul
Galata

By courier of the Federal Foreign

Dear Mr. State Councillor !

In response to your letter of April 10 of this year, I am pleased to inform you that
on behalf of the Führer, to be able to send you his picture dedicated to you with the Führer's handwritten signature.

Heil Hitler !
Yours sincerely

bzfg. Photograph of the leader w. autograph

2) Z. d. A.

DZA, p. 73, concept, signed off by Lammers, sent on June 14, 1939.

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After presentation to the Reich Minister :

The Reich Minister and Chief of the Reich Chancellery RM. *Berlin, July 7, 1939*

1) To
Dr. Leisler Kiep
State Councillor and retired Corvette Captain Denizbank
Istanbul
Galata

By courier of the Federal Foreign

Regarding the letters of June 14 and 26, 1939.

Dear Mr. State Councillor !

I have already had the opportunity to talk to Mr. Reichsstatthalter Kaufmann about your
to personally discuss his intended appointment to Hamburg as his business associate. I am happy to support these plans to the best of my ability. However, as I do not know how I can best promote the matter in its current state, may I ask you to let me know in which particular direction you would like my support.

Heil Hitler !
Yours sincerely (N. d. H. RMin.) L.

2) Z. d. A.

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State Councillor Dr.

Business : Hamburgische Landesbank - Girozentrale – Bergstr. 16, Tel. 321016, Telegr. : Landesbank

Private Hamburg 13, Hartungstr. 5, Phone 5530 63

April 16, 1942.

Dear Mr. Reichsminister ! Dear Dr.

Larnmers !

"More solito" may I ask you to convey my most sincere good wishes to the Führer on his birthday with my loyal greeting 1
On April 20, the thoughts of every good German are with him, but on this birthday the wishes are even more heartfelt and serious than ever! May the great project that lies ahead succeed completely ! May God grant it !
May the Führer be granted good health and all the personal happiness that the heavy burden of his gigantic task can possibly allow 1
In this wish I cordially include you as his first assistant. With best regards and

Heil Hitler !
Yours, Leisler
Kiep

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